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REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). The Applicant has canceled claims 1, 2, 13, 19, and 21-30 without prejudice to their subsequent reinstatement in a continuing application. Claim 3 has been amended as a matter of form to include the limitations of independent claim 1. Claim 7 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 13, and claim 17 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 19. Claim 7 has also been amended to correct a typographical error. The remaining dependent claims have been amended to depend from allowable claims 3, 7, and 17. Since the Examiner previously indicated that the subject matter of claims 3, 13, and 19 (now corresponding to amended claims 3, 7, and 17), it is believed that the claims are in a condition for allowance.

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Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is hereby earnestly requested.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney, Kenneth J. Cool, at (408) 850-1229 if there remains any issue with allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth J. Cool

Inventor

Date: 12/22/03



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